



# NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler  
District 32



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **SEN. GARY NODLER INTRODUCES LEGISLATION MAKING INNOVATIVE CHANGES TO THE MISSOURI ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, today filed a major piece of education legislation aimed at making a variety of innovative changes to the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) that will put Missouri’s educational standards in line with the new requirements established under the federal No Child Left Behind law. Nodler discussed the bill at a press conference in Jefferson City, where he was joined by members of leadership in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, representatives from state educational associations, school administrators and teachers.

“I believe this is one of the most important bills that the General Assembly will consider this year,” said Nodler. “Our children are the future of this state, and the future of Missouri depends upon them becoming properly educated.”

Nodler’s bill would require that by June 30, 2006, the State Board of Education align the performance standards of the MAP test so that the performance standards meet, but do not exceed, the performance standards of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam.

“Our present MAP test needs to be brought in line with the new national standards,” Nodler said. “The educational community supports the changes made under this bill. ”

In 2003, the Missouri State Teachers Association officially went on record as opposing the MAP tests and called for the elimination of the current program.

“Teachers support the idea of testing, they just don’t support our current test,” said Nodler.

Other changes made under Nodler’s bill:

- Institute yearly examination of students in the required subject areas as established by federal standards.
- Administer any other adjustments necessary in order to aid the state in conforming to federal standards.

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